

Ms. A. 1. 1 v. 7, p. 44B  
(Private.)

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Paris, June 14, 1867.

My dear Friend:

I am greatly obliged to you for your frank and explanatory letter in regard to our friends G. T. and M. E.; but I did not mean to put you to the trouble of sending a reply to what I wrote en passant, and what, of course, I meant to be between ourselves. My appreciation of Miss E. has been very strong from the time I formed her acquaintance; and the warm eulogy you bestow upon her for her many virtues, and the eminent service she rendered the Anti-Slavery cause for so long a period in the United States, I heartily endorse. I am sure she would not do intentional injustice to any person, living or dead; but I am also as sure that she does not properly appreciate the labors, sacrifices, and real merits of G. T.; though I very well understand why it is some of his habits and peculiarities are not to her taste, and therefore lead her to underestimate his true worth. It was the expression, in her letter to Mr. McKim, of the hope that G. T. had left England for good, and that he would not return again, that particularly excited my surprise and



hurt my feelings; especially in view of the fact that he was in exile from his wife and children as a matter of pecuniary necessity, and in order to procure the means to "keep the wolf from the door." No person better knows the infirmities of G. T. than I do; and he has never found me backward in giving both expostulation and advice. Yet I know how to make a wide margin of allowance for him, without compromising any principle, or lowering the standard of personal character. He has a very susceptible temperament which carries his spirit to starry heights or sinks <sup>it</sup> ~~him~~ to abysmal depths; in moral heroism he is a giant, in self-reliance a child; he craves and needs the sympathies of his friends; and deserves them too, for many reasons; he is, and in his utter unselfishness is always likely to be, poor in this world's goods, and as age is advancing upon him he is liable to fits of depression, not knowing what he had better do, and unwilling to trouble even those in whom he most confides with any of his concerns. Unfitted for business, his thoughts are continually in the interests of mankind; and though not born for a leader, he was born to labor in the broad field of humanity and reform, where he would get but inadequate remuneration,



and, consequently, need occasional pecuniary assistance. I know that there is a prevalent idea in England that he is improvident — in other words, that he is "regardless of money," as you say. But I think that injustice is done him in this particular. I have been his guest for weeks at a time; and I have never seen a table set with more habitual frugality. He makes no personal display and indulges in no personal extravagance that I know of, his habits being simple and his wants few, he studiously shunning all fashionable and costly society. In America he has been very economical and saving, so as to be able to make regular remittances for the support of his wife and unmarried daughter. He always had a very moderate income in England, yet by his personal conspicuity and position as a philanthropist and reformer was necessarily subjected to incidental expenses that helped to keep his purse quite empty. There, or when, he has manifested any recklessness in the use of his means, — allowing him any scope for the generosity of his nature, — others may know, but I do not.

The suggestion made by Mr. McKim to Miss E., in regard to employing G. T. to deliver lectures in behalf of the Freedmen's cause in various parts of the King-



dom, was certainly well meant, however useless or impracticable it might be; and it need not have been declined in a manner to wound the sensibility of any one. Mr. McKim sent me Miss E's letter, without note or comment; so I do not know how he felt about it. Of course, G. T. knows nothing of the matter, nor will anything be said to him on the subject.

As to G. T.'s lecturing appointments in America, he has observed them with commendable fidelity, except in one or two cases, when the miserable state of his health justified the failure. All last fall and winter, he had to abandon the lecturing field on that account, though very desirous of turning every possible penny; thus losing several thousand dollars. I assure you that <sup>his</sup> mental and physical prostration was so great as to give us all great uneasiness. But enough.

It shall be as you wish concerning our acceptance of the hospitality proffered by you and your son, when we come to Dublin; of which coming you shall be duly apprised. You are irresistible!

In the morning we shall be off for London.

Yours, "through thick and thin,"

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

R. D. Webb.

Don't bother yourself about replying to this.